

# Glossary of Medical Terms CDC/VPH

Updated December 19, 2001

## A

ACH, or Ach  
Active immunization  
Acute  
Adenopathy  
Adnexa  
Afebrile  
Agglutination  
Agglutinin  
AIDS  
Aleukia  
Allergic Reaction  
Alopecia  
ALT  
Analgesic  
Anaphylaxis  
Aneurysm  
Anorexia  
Antibody  
Anticonvulsant.  
Antigens  
Antitoxin  
Arrhythmia  
Arthralgia  
Ascites  
AST  
Asthenia  
Asymptomatic  
Infection  
Asynchronous  
Ataxia  
Atelectasis  
Atrophy  
Atropine  
Atypical

## B

Bilirubin  
Biopsy  
Blood agar  
Bradycardia  
Bronchiolitis  
Bronchitis  
Bubo  
Bulla, gen. pl. bullae

## C

Carbuncle  
Cardiovascular  
Case  
Case control study  
Centrifugal  
Centripetal  
Cerebrospinal

Cervix  
CF \*  
Chain of Infection  
Chancre  
Chemoprophylaxis  
Cholinergic  
Chronic  
CI  
CIS  
CJD  
Clinical  
manifestations  
CNS  
Coagulopathy  
Coccobacillus  
Cohort study  
Communicable  
Congenital  
Conjunctiva, pl  
conjunctivae  
Conjunctivitis  
Contact  
Control  
CSF  
Cutaneous  
Cyanosis  
Cycloplegia  
Cystitis

## D

DFA \*  
Diaphoresis  
Diathesis  
DIC  
Diplopia  
Direct  
transmission  
DIS  
Distal  
DNA  
Dysarthria  
Dysphagia,  
dysphagy  
Dysphonia  
Dyspnea  
Dysuria

## E

Ecchymosis  
Eczema  
Edema  
EIA \*  
EITB  
ELISA \*

Enanthem,  
enanthema  
Encephalitis, pl.  
encephalitides  
Endocarditis  
Endocervical  
Endometrium  
Endotoxemia  
Endotracheal  
intubation  
Enterotoxin  
EPEC  
Epidemic  
Epidemic curve  
Epidemiology  
Epistaxis  
Epizootic  
Erythema  
Erythema  
multiforme  
Erythrocyte  
Erythropoiesis  
Eschar  
ETEC  
Etiology  
Exanthema  
Extracellular  
Extraocular

## F

FA \*  
False negative  
False positive  
Fasciculation  
Febrile  
Fomite  
Formalin  
FTA-ABS \*  
Fulminant hepatitis

## G

Generalized  
vaccinia  
General probe  
Genotyping  
Glanders  
Globulin  
Gram Stain  
Granulocytopenia  
Guarnieri bodies

## H

HAV  
HAV-Igm, or  
Igm Anti-HAV

HBcAb-Igm or  
Igm Anti-HBc  
HBsAb  
HBsAg  
HBV  
HCV  
HDV  
Hemagglutination  
Hemagglutinin  
Hematemesis  
Hematuria  
Hemodynamic  
Hemoglobin  
Hemolysis  
Hemopoietic  
Hemoptysis  
Hemorrhage  
Hepatic  
Hepatomegaly  
Hepatosplenomegaly  
Heterologous  
HI \*  
HIB  
Hilar  
HUS  
Hyperemia  
Hyperesthesia  
Hyperthermia  
Hypertrophy  
Hypotension  
Hypothermia  
Hypovolemia  
Hypoxemia

## I

Idiopathic  
IFA \*  
IFA - HGE \*  
IFA - HME \*  
Ig  
IHA \*  
IHC  
Immunity  
Immunoassay \*  
Incidence  
Incubation period  
Indirect transmission  
Induration  
Infection  
Infectious disease  
Inguinal  
Inoculation  
In vitro

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In vivo	Nosocomial	Pruritus	Synovial fluid
<b>J</b>	Nuchal	Ptosis, pl. ptoses	Systemic
Jaundice	<b>O</b>	Pulmonary edema	<b>T</b>
Jugal	Oliguria	Purpura	Tachycardia
<b>L</b>	Opsonins	Pyogenic	Teratogenicity
LA	O.R.	Pyrogenic	Thrombocytopenia
Latency	Oropharyngeal	<b>R</b>	Titer
Latent	Oropharynx	Rales	Toxic reaction
LDH	Osteomyelitis	RBC	Toxoid
Leukopenia	<b>P</b>	Retinitis	Tracheitis
Lumbosacral	P value	Retrosternal	Tracheotomy
Lumen, pl. lumina	Pancytopenia	Rhinorrhea	Tremor
Lymphadenopathy	Pandemic	RIA *	<i>Treponema pallidum</i>
Lymphangitis	Papule	RIBA *	TTP
Lymphatic system	Parasitemia	Rigors	<b>U</b>
Lymph nodes	Paresis	RNA	UA
Lymphopenia	Passive immunity	RPR	Umbilicated
Lysins	Pathogenic	R.R.	Urethra
<b>M</b>	Pathology	<b>S</b>	Urticaria
Macula, pl. maculae	PCR	Sarin	Uterus
Malaise	Penicillinase	Scarification	<b>V</b>
MAT	Percutaneous	Sclera	Vaccine
Mediastinitis	Pericardial	Sensitivity	Vaccinia
Mediastinum	Perivascular	Sepsis	Vagina
Megakaryocyte	Petechia, pl.	Septicemia	Varicella
Melena	petechiae	Septic shock	Variola
Meninges	PFGE	Sequela, pl.	Variolation
Meningism	Phagocytes	sequelae	VDRL
Meningococcemia	Pharyngeal	Serofast	Vector
MHA-TP *	Pharyngitis	Serogroup	VEE
Microcyst	Phosgene	Serologic Test	Vehicle
Microscopy	Photophobia	Serosal	Vesicle
MIF	PID	Serotype	Viremia
Miosis	Plasma	Serous	Virion
Morbidity	Pleura	Serum	Virulence
Moribund	Pleurisy	SGOT (GOT)	VRSA
Morphology	Polymorphonuclear	SGPT (GPT)	Vulva
MRSA	Polyuria	SLE	<b>W</b>
Mucocutaneous	PPNG	Soman	Wayson stain
Mucous membrane	Presynaptic	Somnolence	WBC
Myalgia	Prevalence	Specificity	Western Blot *
Mydriasis	Preventive treatment	STEC	Wheals
<b>N</b>	Prodromal	Sterile abscess	Widal test
Narcosis	symptoms	Stridor	WNV
Necrosis	Prophylactic	STS	<b>Z</b>
Neonatal	treatment	Superantigen	Zoonosis
Nephropathia	Prophylaxis, pl.	Superinfection	2 X 2 table
epidemica	prophylaxes	Suppurative	
Neutrophilia	Prostration	Susceptibility	
Nociceptive	Proteinuria	Symptomatology	
Norwalk Virus	Proximal	Synchronous	

*\* - The asterisked tests listed in this document, whether antibody, immunoassay, agglutination, or complement fixation tests are all laboratory test that are derived from the antibody / antigen reaction.*

**(ACH, Ach)** - Abbreviation for acetylcholine. The neurotransmitter substance at cholinergic synapses, which causes cardiac inhibition, vasodilation, gastrointestinal peristalsis, and other parasympathetic effects.

**Active immunization** -The act of artificially stimulating the body to develop antibodies against infectious disease by the administration of vaccines or toxoids.

**Acute** - Of short and relatively severe course.

**Adenopathy** - Swelling or morbid enlargement of the lymph nodes.

**Adnexa** - The anatomical area adjacent to the uterus including the tubes, ovaries and parametrium.

**Afebrile** - Without fever.

**Agglutination** - The clumping together in suspension of antigen-bearing cells, microorganisms, or particles (i.e. agglutinins) in the presence of specific antibodies.

**Agglutinin** - A substance in serum capable of causing agglutination (e.g. incompatible bloods agglutinate each other).

**AIDS** - Abbreviation for Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome. A disease, at least moderately predictive of a defect in cell-mediated immunity, occurring in a person with no known cause for diminished resistance to that disease.

**Aleukia** - Absence or extremely decreased number of leukocytes in the circulating blood.

**Allergic Reaction** - A reaction that results from extreme sensitivity to a drug or agent and does not depend on the amount of drug given. These may be classified into two types, immediate and delayed, on the basis of the time it takes for the reaction to occur.

**Alopecia** - Absence of hair. In secondary syphilis this temporary hair loss is patchy, given a "moth-eaten" appearance, and may include loss of eyebrow hair.

**ALT** - Abbreviation for alanine aminotransferase, a liver enzyme. Called also SGPT or GPT, (see SGPT).

**Analgesic** - 1) A compound capable of producing analgesia, i.e., one that relieves pain by altering perception of nociceptive stimuli without producing anesthesia or loss of consciousness. 2) Characterized by reduced response to painful stimuli.

**Anaphylaxis** - The most serious form of immediate allergic reaction, capable of causing death. Occasionally occurs as a result of penicillin therapy.

**Aneurysm** - A saccular ballooning of the walls of an artery or vein.

**Anorexia** - The lack or loss of the appetite for food.

**Antibody** - A type of serum protein that is produced by the body in response to foreign antigens. These assist the body in removing or destroying the foreign antigens.

**Anticonvulsant** - An agent that prevents or arrests seizures.

**Antigens** - Any substance that stimulates the body to produce antibodies. Such substances may be used to detect antibodies in the serum; i.e., cardiolipinlecithin antigen, used in the VDRL serological test. (Disease-causing agents such as bacteria and viruses are considered antigens).

**Antitoxin** - An antibody formed in response to and capable of neutralizing a biological poison; an animal serum containing antitoxins.

**Arrhythmia** - any variation from the normal rhythm of the heart beat.

**Arthralgia** - Severe pain in a joint, especially one not inflammatory in character.

**Ascites** - The effusion and accumulation of serous fluid in the abdominal cavity.

**AST** - Abbreviation for aspartate aminotransferase, a liver enzyme. Called also SGOT or GOT, (see SGOT).

**Asthenia** - Weakness or debility.

**Asymptomatic Infection** - A state in which the host is infected by an organism but has no discernible clinical disease.

**Asynchronous** - Is not occurring at the same time.

**Ataxia** - An inability to coordinate muscle activity during voluntary movement, so that smooth movements occur. Most often due to disorders of the cerebellum or the posterior columns of the spinal cord; may involve the limbs, head, or trunk.

**Atelectasis** - Absence of gas from a part or the whole of the lungs, due to failure of expansion or resorption of gas from the alveoli.

**Atrophy** - A wasting away or diminution in size of a body part.

**Atropine** - An anticholinergic, with diverse effects (tachycardia, mydriasis, cycloplegia, constipation, urinary retention) attributable to reversible competitive blockade of acetylcholine at muscarinic type cholinergic receptors; used in the treatment of poisoning with organophosphate insecticides or nerve gases.

**Atypical** - Irregular; not of typical character.

**Bilirubin** - A red bile pigment formed from hemoglobin during normal and abnormal destruction of erythrocytes. Excess bilirubin is associated with jaundice.

**Biopsy** - The removal of tissues from the living body for the purpose of diagnostic examination.

**Blood agar** - A mixture of blood and nutrient agar, used for the cultivation of many medically important microorganisms.

**Bradycardia** - Slowness of the heart rate, as evidenced by slowing of the pulse rate to less than 60 per minute.

**Bronchiolitis** - Inflammation of the bronchioles, often associated with bronchopneumonia.

**Bronchitis** - Inflammation of the mucous membrane of the bronchial tubes.

**Bubo** - Inflammatory swelling of one or more lymph nodes, usually in the groin; the confluent mass of nodes usually suppurates and drains pus.

**Bulla, gen. and pl. bullae** - A large blister appearing as a circumscribed area of separation of the epidermis from the sub epidermal structure (sub epidermal *bulla*) or as a circumscribed area of separation of epidermal cells (intraepidermal *bulla*) caused by the presence of serum, or occasionally by an injected substance.

**Carbuncle** - Deep-seated pyogenic infection of the skin and subcutaneous tissues, usually arising in several contiguous hair follicles, with formation of connecting sinuses; often preceded or accompanied by fever, malaise, and prostration.

**Cardiovascular** - Pertaining to the heart and blood vessels.

**Case** - In epidemiology, a person in the population or study group identified as having the particular disease.

**Case control study** - The observational epidemiologic study of persons with the disease of interest and a suitable control (comparison) group of persons without the disease. In short, past history of exposure to suspected risk factors compared between "cases" and "controls."

**Centrifugal** - Moving away from the center.

**Centripetal** - Moving towards a center.

**Cerebrospinal** - Relating to the brain and the spinal cord.

**Cervix** - The end of the uterus that extends into the vagina.

**CF** - Abbreviation for complement fixation test.

**Chain of Infection** - A series of infections that are directly or indirectly connected to a particular source.

**Chancre** - The initial sore or lesion of primary syphilis occurring at the site of entry of *Treponema pallidum*.

**Chemoprophylaxis** - Prevention of disease by the use of chemicals or drugs.

**Cholinergic** - Relating to nerve cells or fibers that employ acetylcholine as their neurotransmitter.

**Chronic** - Having a long course, often marked by slowly progressing seriousness.

**CI** - Abbreviation for Confidence Interval. CI is the complete interval with a given probability, e.g. 95%, that the true value of variable such as a mean, proportion, or rate is contained in the interval.

**CIS** - Abbreviation for Counseling and Intervention Specialist.

**CJD** - Abbreviation for Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease.

**Clinical Manifestations** - Pertaining to or founded on observations of patients.

**CNS** - Abbreviation for central nervous system. The brain and spinal cord.

**Coagulopathy** - A disease affecting the coagulability of the blood.

**Coccobacillus** - A short, thick bacterial rod of the shape of an oval.

**Cohort Study** - Can be identified as who have been or in the future may be exposed or not, or exposed in different degrees, to a factor or factors hypothesized to influence the probability of occurrence of a given disease.

**Communicable** - Able to spread diseased from one person or species to another, either directly or indirectly; contagious.

**Congenital** - Acquired by the newborn before or at the time of birth.

**Conjunctiva, pl. conjunctivae** - The mucous membrane investing the anterior surface of the eyeball and the posterior surface of the lids.

**Conjunctivitis** - Inflammation of the surfaces of the eye and eyelid.

**Contact** - A person exposed to an infectious person.

**Control** - In case control studies a comparison group that had opportunity to acquire the condition under study but did not.

**CSF** - Abbreviation for cerebrospinal fluid.

**Cutaneous** - Relating to the skin.

**Cyanosis** - A dark bluish or purplish coloration of the skin and mucous membrane due to deficient oxygenation of the blood, evident when reduced hemoglobin in the blood exceeds 5 g per 100 ml.

**Cycloplegia** - Paralysis of the ciliary muscle (ciliary -pertaining to certain structures of the eye).

**Cystitis** - Inflammation of the bladder.

**DFA** - Abbreviation for Direct Fluorescent Antibody test.

**Diaphoresis** - perspiration, especially profuse perspiration.

**Diathesis** - The constitutional or inborn state disposing to a disease, group of diseases, or metabolic or structural anomaly.

**DIC** - Abbreviation for Disseminated Intravascular Coagulation. Sometimes caused by a fulminant gram-negative infection (and other causes). Presents a phenomenon of "micro-clotting" at the cellular level and manifests itself as profuse bleeding from multiple sites.

**Diplopia** - The condition in which a single object is perceived as two objects.

**Direct Transmission** - A manner of transmitting disease organisms in which the agent moves immediately from the infected person to the susceptible person, as in person-to-person contact and in droplet contact.

**DIS** - Abbreviation for Disease Intervention Specialist.

**Distal** - Situated away from the center of the body, or from the point of origin; specifically applied to the extremity or distant part of a limb or organ.

**DNA** - abbreviation for deoxyribonucleic acid.

**Dysarthria** - A disturbance of speech and language due to emotional stress, to brain injury, or to paralysis, incoordination, or spasticity of the muscles used for speaking.

**Dysphagia, dysphagy** - Difficulty in swallowing.

**Dysphonia** - Altered voice production.

**Dyspnea** - Shortness of breath, a subjective difficulty or distress in breathing, usually associated with disease of the heart or lungs; occurs normally during intense physical exertion or at high altitude.

**Dysuria** - Painful or difficult urination.

**Ecchymosis** - A purplish patch caused by extravasation of blood into the skin, differing from petechiae only in size (larger than 3 mm diameter). (See hemorrhage).

**Eczema** - Generic term for inflammatory conditions of the skin; often accompanied by sensations of itching and burning.

**Edema** - An accumulation of an excessive amount of watery fluid in cells, tissues, or serous cavities.

**EIA** - Abbreviation for Enzyme Immunoassay test. Also called ELISA, which is an abbreviation for enzyme-linked immunosorbent assay (see ELISA for definition).

**EITB** - Abbreviation for Electrophoretic Immunotransblot test.

**ELISA** - Abbreviation for Enzyme-Linked Immunosorbent Assay test. A test used to detect antibodies in samples. The test is referred to as both EIA and ELISA. EIA is an abbreviation for enzyme immunoassay.

**Enanthem, enanthema** - A mucous membrane eruption, especially one occurring in connection with one of the exanthemas.

**Encephalitis, pl. encephalitides** - Inflammation of the brain.

**Endocarditis** - Inflammation of the lining of the heart.

**Endocervical** - Pertaining to the interior of the cervix, especially the endocervical canal.

**Endometrium** - The inner layer of the uterus.

**Endotoxemia** - Presence in the blood of endotoxins.

**Endotracheal intubation** - Passage of a tube through the nose or mouth into the trachea for maintenance of the airway during anesthesia or for maintenance of an imperiled airway.

**Enterotoxin** - A cytotoxin specific for the cells of the intestinal mucosa.

**EPEC** - Abbreviation for Enteropathogenic E. coli, an organism shown to cause diarrhea in children 2 years of age and under. The following are genetic markers by PCR analysis for EPEC: eae (E. coli attaching and effacing gene), bfpA (bundle forming pilus gene A) and EAF (EPEC adherence factor plasmid).

**Epidemic** - A disease is said to reach epidemic proportions when its incidence rate surpasses the projected normal rate in any well-defined geographical area.

**Epidemic curve** - Also known as an Epi curve, which is a graphic plotting of the distribution of cases by time of onset.

**Epidemiology** - Epidemiology is the study of the distribution and causes of health-related states or events - specific populations, and the application of the study to control health problems.

**Epistaxis** - Profuse bleeding from the nose.

**Epizootic** - 1) Denoting a temporal pattern of disease occurrence in an animal population in which the disease occurs with a frequency clearly in excess of the expected frequency in that population during a given time interval. 2) An outbreak (epidemic) of disease in an animal population; often with the implication that it may also affect human populations.

**Erythema** - Redness of the skin due to capillary dilatation.

**Erythema multiforme** - An acute eruption of macules, papules, or sub dermal vesicles presenting a multiform appearance, the characteristic lesion being the target or iris lesion over the dorsal aspect of the hands and forearms; its origin may be allergic, seasonal, or from drug sensitivity, and the eruption, although usually self-limited (e.g., multiforme minor), may be recurrent or may run a severe course, sometimes with fatal termination (e.g., multiforme major or Stevens-Johnson syndrome).

**Erythrocyte** - A mature red blood cell.

**Erythropoiesis** - The formation of red blood cells.

**Eschar** - A sloughing of skin as seen by a thermal burn, corrosive, or as seen in cutaneous anthrax.

**ETEC** - Abbreviation for Enterotoxigenic E. coli, which is known to cause diarrhea in man. The following are genetic markers by PCR analysis for ETEC: LT (heat-labile enterotoxin), ST (heat-stable enterotoxin).

**Etiology** - The study of the causation of a disease. In practice, etiology represents the sum of factual and theoretical knowledge available.

**Exanthema** - A skin eruption occurring as a symptom of an acute viral or coccal disease, as in scarlet fever or measles.

**Extracellular** - Outside the cells.

**Extraocular** - Adjacent to but outside the eyeball.

**FA** - Abbreviation for fluorescent antibody test.

**False Negative** - Negative test result in a subject who possesses the attribute for which the test is conducted.

**False Positive** - Positive test result in a subject who does not possess the attribute for which the test is conducted.

**Fasciculation** - Involuntary contractions, or twitching, of groups (fasciculi) of muscle fibers, a coarser form of muscular contraction than fibrillation.

**Febrile** - Denoting or relating to fever.

**Fomite** - Objects, such as handkerchiefs, towels, drinking glasses and utensils that convey infection to others because they have been contaminated by pathogenic organisms.

**Formalin** - A 37% aqueous solution of formaldehyde.

**FTA-ABS** - Abbreviation for Fluorescent Treponemal Antibody Absorption, generally used for diagnosing a syphilis case.

**Fulminant hepatitis** - Severe, rapidly progressive loss of hepatic function due to viral infection or other cause of inflammatory destruction of liver tissue.

**Generalized vaccinia** - Secondary lesions of the skin following vaccination, which may occur in subjects with previously healthy skin but are more common in the case of traumatized skin, especially in the case of eczema (eczema vaccinatum). In the latter instance, generalized vaccinia may result from mere contact with a vaccinated person. Secondary vaccinal lesions may also occur following transfer of virus from the vaccination to another site by means of the fingers (autoinnoculation).

**General Probe** - DNA probe used as specimen collection and testing device for diagnosis of gonorrhea and chlamydia.

**Genotyping** - To distinguish and group organisms on the basis of their genetic material (DNA sequencing).

**Glanders** - A chronic debilitating disease of horses and other equids, as well as some members of the cat family, caused by *Pseudomonas mallei*; it is transmissible to humans. It attacks the mucous membranes of the nostrils of the horse, producing an increased and vitiated secretion and discharge of mucus, and enlargement and induration of the glands of the lower jaw.

**Globulin** - That portion of serum that contains antibodies.

**Gram Stain** - A laboratory method used to identify gram-negative and gram-positive organisms.

**Granulocytopenia** - Less than the normal number of granular leukocytes in the blood.

**Guarnieri bodies** - Intracytoplasmic acidophilic inclusion body's observed in epithelial cells in variola (smallpox) and vaccinia infections, and which include aggregations of Paschen body's or virus particles.

**HAV** - Abbreviation for hepatitis A virus.

**HAV-Igm or (Igm Anti-HAV)** - Abbreviation for hepatitis A Igm antibody. A hepatitis A marker indicating recent infection with hepatitis A (generally within the last 6 months).

**HBcAb-Igm or (Igm Anti HBc)** - Abbreviation for hepatitis B core antibody IGM. If a person is HBcAb-Igm positive, (s)he is either in the acute phase of the infection or resolving the acute phase of the infection.

**HBsAb or (Anti-HBs)** - Abbreviation for hepatitis B surface antibody. HBsAb is the only marker that results from immunization with hepatitis B vaccine. HBsAb may also be acquired by having hepatitis B.

**HBsAg** - Abbreviation for hepatitis B surface antigen. If a person is HBsAg positive (s)he is potentially infectious and is either in the acute phase of the infection or in the chronic carrier state.

**HBV** - Abbreviation for hepatitis B virus.

**HCV** - Abbreviation for hepatitis C virus.

**HDV** - Abbreviation for hepatitis D virus.

**Hemagglutination** - The agglutination of red blood cells; which may be caused by specific antibodies to certain viruses, or by other substances.

**Hemagglutinin** - A substance, antibody or other, that causes hemagglutination.

**Hematemesis** - Vomiting of blood.

**Hematuria** - Any condition in which the urine contains blood or red blood cells.

**Hemodynamic** - Relating to the physical aspects of the blood circulation.

**Hemoglobin** - The oxygen-carrying portion of the red blood cells that gives them a red color.

**Hemolysis** - Alteration, dissolution, or destruction of red blood cells in such a manner that hemoglobin is liberated into the medium in which the cells are suspended, e.g., by specific complement-fixing antibodies, toxins, various chemical agents, tonicity, alteration of temperature. Also, certain bacteria such as *streptococcus*, *staphylococcus*, and tetanus may cause hemolysis.

**Hemopoietic** - Pertaining to or related to the formation of blood cells.

**Hemoptysis** - The spitting of blood derived from the lungs or bronchial tubes as a result of pulmonary or bronchial hemorrhage.

**Hemorrhage** - The escape of blood from the vessels; bleeding. Hemorrhages are classified according to size as petechiae (very small) purpura (up to 1 cm), ecchymoses (large) and the massive ovulation of blood within tissue is called a hematoma.

**Hepatic** - Relating to the liver.

**Hepatomegaly** - Enlargement of the liver.

**Hepatosplenomegaly** - Enlargement of the liver and spleen.

**Heterologous** - 1. Pertaining to cytologic or histologic elements occurring where they are not normally found. 2. Derived from an animal of a different species, as the serum of a horse is heterologous for a rabbit.

**HI** - Abbreviation for Haemophilus influenzae, also the abbreviation for Hemagglutination Inhibition test.

**HIB** - Abbreviation for Haemophilus influenzae type B.

**Hilar** - Pertaining to the depression or pit at that part of an organ where the vessels and nerves enter.

**HUS** - Abbreviation for Hemolytic Uremic Syndrome. A condition with hemolytic anemia and thrombocytopenia occurring with acute renal failure. The following are genetic markers by PCR analysis for E. coli O157 and other Shiga toxin-producing E. coli (STEC): stx1 (Shiga toxin 1 {SLT-1/VT1}), stx2 (Shiga toxin 2 {SLT-2/VT2}), eae (E. Coli attaching and effacing gene), uidAO157 (O157 allele of beta glucuronidase), and E-hly (enterohemolysin gene found on a 60 megadalton plasmid present in E. coli O157:H7 and other enterohemorrhagic E. coli). These organisms are important causes of HUS, hemorrhagic colitis and diarrhea worldwide.

**Hyperemia** - The presence of an increased amount of blood in a part or organ.

**Hyperesthesia** - Abnormal acuteness of sensitivity to touch, pain, or other sensory stimuli.

**Hyperthermia** - Abnormally high body temperature.

**Hypertrophy** - An enlargement or overgrowth of an organ.

**Hypotension** - Subnormal arterial blood pressure.

**Hypothermia** - Abnormally low body temperature.

**Hypovolemia** - A decreased amount of blood in the body.

**Hypoxemia** - Subnormal oxygenation of arterial blood, short of anoxia.

**Idiopathic** - Denoting a disease of unknown cause.

**IFA** - Abbreviation for Immunofluorescent Antibody test.

**IFA- HGE** - Abbreviation for Immunofluorescent Human Granulocytic Ehrlichiosis.

**IFA-HME** - Abbreviation for Immunofluorescent Human Monocytic Ehrlichiosis

**Ig** - Abbreviation for Immune Globulin. If given within 2 weeks after exposure to HAV, is greater than 85% effective in preventing symptomatic infection.

**IHA** - Abbreviation for Indirect Hemagglutination Antibody test.

**IHC** - Abbreviation for Immunohistochemical stain.

**Immunity** - The ability of the host to resist infection.

**Immunoassay** - Detection and assay of substances by serological (immunological) methods; in most applications the substance in question serves as antigen, both in antibody production and in measurement of antibody by the test substance.

**Incidence** - The total new cases of diseases occurring in a given area within a specific time, usually one year.

**Incubation Period** - The time between the invasion of an infectious agent into the body and the first sign or symptom of the disease.

**Indirect Transmission** - A manner of transmitting disease organisms in which the agents do not directly pass from an infected person to a susceptible person but rather do so in a round about manner by means of vectors, fomites, or contact with contaminated water, food, milk and biological products.

**Induration** - 1) The process of becoming extremely firm or hard, or having such physical features. 2) A focus or region of indurated tissue.

**Infection** - Invasion of the body by pathogenic organisms.

**Infectious Disease** - Diseases that are caused by pathogenic microorganisms living in or on the body as parasites.

**Inguinal** - Relating to the groin.

**Inoculation** - Introduction into the body of the causative organism of a disease.

**In vitro** - In an artificial environment, referring to a process or reaction occurring therein, as in a test tube or culture media.

**In vivo** - In the living body, referring to a process or reaction occurring therein.

**Jaundice** - A syndrome characterized by deposition of bile pigment in the skin, mucous membranes, and sclera with resulting yellow appearance of the patient.

**Jugal** - 1) Connecting like a yoke 2) Pertaining to the cheek.

**LA** - Abbreviation for Latex Agglutination test.

**Latency** - A more or less temporary asymptomatic state of equilibrium between host and parasite.

**Latent** - That which is present without showing itself, hidden, concealed, such as latent syphilis.

**LDH** - Abbreviation for Lactic Dehydrogenase, an enzyme.

**Leukopenia** - The antithesis of leukocytosis; any situation in which the total number of leukocytes in the circulating blood is less than normal, the lower limit of which is generally regarded as 4000-5000 per cu mm.

**Lumbosacral** - Relating to the lumbar vertebrae and the sacrum.

**Lumen, pl. lumina** - The space in the interior of a tubular structure, such as an artery or the intestine.

**Lymphadenopathy** - Any disease process affecting a lymph node or lymph nodes.

**Lymphangitis** - The inflammation of a lymphatic vessel or vessels.

**Lymphatic System** - A fluid system of vessels and glands that is important in controlling infections and limiting their spread.

**Lymph Nodes** - Gland-like structure in the lymphatic system that helps to prevent spread of infection.

**Lymphopenia** - A reduction, relative or absolute, in the number of lymphocytes in the circulating blood.

**Lysins** - Antibodies that cause the disintegration of microorganisms.

**Macula, pl. maculae** - 1. A small spot, perceptibly different in color from the surrounding tissue. 2. A small, discolored patch or spot on the skin, neither elevated above nor depressed below the skin's surface.

**Malaise** - A vague feeling of bodily discomfort or being tired and run down.

**MAT** - Abbreviation for Microagglutination titer; also the abbreviation for Microscopic Agglutination Test, which is used for leptospirosis testing.

**Mediastinitis** - Inflammation of the cellular tissue of the mediastinum.

**Mediastinum** - The median partition of the thoracic cavity, covered by the mediastinal pleura and containing all the thoracic viscera and structures except the lungs.

**Megakaryocyte** - A large cell with a polyploid nucleus that is usually multilobed; megakaryocytes are normally present in bone marrow, not in the circulating blood, and give rise to blood platelets.

**Melena** - Passage of dark-colored, tarry stools, due to the presence of blood altered by the intestinal juices.

**Meninges** - Any membrane; specifically, one of the membranous coverings of the brain and spinal cord.

**Meningism** - A condition in which the symptoms simulate a meningitis, but in which no actual inflammation of these membranes is present.

**Meningococcemia** - Presence of meningococci (*N. meningitidis*) in the circulating blood.

**MHA-TP** - Abbreviation for Microhemagglutination for *Treponema pallidum*. This test is an effective test for syphilis (although not as sensitive in primary syphilis and possibly late latent disease) that has come into wide use in the past few years.

**Microcyst** - A tiny cyst, frequently of such dimensions that a magnifying lens or microscope is required for observation.

**Microscopy** - Investigation of minute objects by means of a microscope.

**MIF** - Abbreviation for Microimmunofluorescence test.

**Miosis** - 1) Contraction of the pupil. 2) That stage of disease during which the intensity of symptoms diminishes.

**Morbidity** - Being diseased, or the proportion of sick persons in a community.

**Moribund** - Dying or at the point of death.

**Morphology** - The study of the forms and structures of organized beings.

**MRSA** - Abbreviation for Methicillin Resistant Staphylococcus Aureus.

**Mucocutaneous** - Relating to mucous membrane and skin; denoting the line of junction of the two at the nasal, oral, vaginal, and anal orifices.

**Mucous Membrane** - The lining of the canals and cavities of the body that communicate with external air, such as the intestinal, respiratory and genitourinary tracts.

**Myalgia** - Muscular pain.

**Mydriasis** - Dilation of the pupil.

**Narcosis** - General and nonspecific reversible depression of neuronal excitability, produced by a number of physical and chemical agents, usually resulting in stupor rather than in anesthesia.

**Necrosis** - Pathologic death of one or more cells, or of a portion of tissue or organ, resulting from irreversible damage.

**Neonatal** - Pertaining to the first four weeks of life.

**Nephropathia epidemica** - A generally benign form of epidemic hemorrhagic fever reported in Scandinavia.

**Neutrophilia** - An increase of neutrophilic leukocytes in blood or tissues; also frequently used synonymously with leukocytosis, inasmuch as the latter is generally the result of an increased number of neutrophilic granulocytes in the circulating blood (or in the tissues, or both).

**Nociceptive** - Refers to receiving injury; said of a receptive neuron for painful sensations.

**Norwalk Virus** - Is a calicivirus that has been implicated as the most common etiologic agent of nonbacterial gastroenteritis outbreaks. Symptoms include nausea, vomiting, diarrhea, abdominal pain, myalgia, headache, malaise, low-grade fever or a combination of these symptoms. The incubation period ranges from 10-50 hours. There are three distinct genogroups of calicivirus. (G1) which includes Norwalk-like virus (as well as others). (G2) which includes Snow Mountain agent, Hawaii agent (as well as others), and (G3), which includes Sapporo virus.

**Nosocomial** - Denoting a new disorder (not the patient's original condition) associated with being treated in a hospital, such as a hospital-acquired infection.

**Nuchal** - Pertaining to the back of the neck.

**Oliguria** - Scanty urine production.

**Opsonins** - Antibodies that aid phagocytes in the ingestion of infectious agents.

**O.R.** - Abbreviation for Odds Ratio. In a case control study it is the ratio of the odds in favor of exposure among cases (a/b) to the odds in favor of exposure among non-cases (c/d).  $\frac{AXD}{BXC} = \text{O.R.}$  (See 2X2 Table).

**Oropharyngeal** - Pertaining to the mouth and throat (pharynx).

**Oropharynx** - The portion of the pharynx that lies posterior to the mouth; it is continuous above with the nasopharynx via the pharyngeal isthmus and below with the laryngopharynx.

**Osteomyelitis** - Inflammation of the bone marrow and adjacent bone.

**P value** - Abbreviation for Probability value. The p value is the level of statistical significance of a given result. In most epidemiologic work, a study result whose p value is less than 5% ( $p < 0.05$ ) is considered sufficiently unlikely to have occurred by chance and is justified in the designation of "statistically significant".

**Pancytopenia** - Pronounced reduction in the number of erythrocytes, all types of white blood cells, and the blood platelets in the circulating blood.

**Pandemic** - Denoting a disease affecting or attacking the population of an extensive region, country, continent; extensively epidemic.

**Papule** - A small, circumscribed, solid elevation on the skin.

**Parasitemia** - The presence of parasites in the circulating blood; used especially with reference to malarial and other protozoan forms, and microfilariae.

**Paresis** - slight or incomplete paralysis.

**Passive immunity** - Providing temporary protection from disease through the administration of exogenously produced antibody (i.e., transplacental transmission of antibodies to the fetus or the injection of immune globulin for specific preventive purposes).

**Pathogenic** - Giving origin to disease or to morbid symptoms.

**Pathology** - The science or study of the essential nature of diseases, especially of the structural and functional changes in tissues and organs of the body that are caused by diseases.

**PCR** - Abbreviation for Polymerase Chain Reaction - An in vitro method for enzymatically synthesizing and amplifying defined sequences of DNA in molecular biology. Can be used for improving DNA-based diagnostic procedures for identifying unknown agents.

**Penicillinase** - An enzyme produced by certain bacteria that destroys penicillin.

**Percutaneous** - Denoting the passage of substances through unbroken skin, for example, by needle puncture, including introduction of wires and catheters.

**Pericardial** - Pertaining to the fibrous sac that surrounds the heart and the roots of the great vessels.

**Perivascular** - Surrounding a blood or lymph vessel.

**Petechia, pl. petechiae** - Minute hemorrhagic spots, of pinpoint to pinhead size, in the skin, which are not blanched by pressure.

**PFGE** - Abbreviation for Pulse Field Gel Electrophoresis. A laboratory procedure of bacterial strain typing.

**Phagocytes** - A cell that ingests (eats) organisms or other cells.

**Pharyngeal** - Relating to the pharynx.

**Pharyngitis** - Inflammation of the mucous membrane and underlying parts of the pharynx.

**Phosgene** - Carbonyl chloride; a colorless liquid below 8.2°C, but an extremely poisonous gas at ordinary temperatures; it is an insidious gas, since it is not immediately irritating, even when fatal concentrations are inhaled.

**Photophobia** - Morbid dread and avoidance of light. Photosensitivity, or pain in the eyes with exposure to light, can be a cause.

**PID** - Pelvic inflammatory disease. Inflammation of the female pelvic organs often the result of gonococcal or chlamydial infections.

**Plasma** - The fluid portion of the blood that contains all the chemical constituents of whole blood except the cells.

**Pleura** - The serous membrane investing the lungs and lining the thoracic cavity, completely enclosing a potential space known as the pleural cavity.

**Pleurisy** - Inflammation of the pleura.

**Polymorphonuclear** - Having nuclei of varied forms; denoting a variety of leukocyte.

**Polyuria** - Excessive excretion of urine.

**PPNG** - Abbreviation for Penicillinase-producing *N. gonorrhea*.

**Presynaptic** - Pertaining to the area on the proximal side of a synaptic cleft.

**Prevalence** - The total number of cases of a disease existing at any time in a given area.

**Preventive Treatment** - Treatment that is adequate to cure an infection but is administered not on the basis of diagnosis but rather on reliable information of exposure to the disease. It is also known as prophylactic treatment or epidemiologic treatment.

**Prodromal symptoms** - Premonitory; indicating the approach of a disease.

**Prophylactic Treatment** - Medical treatment of patients exposed to a disease before the appearance of disease symptoms. Sometimes called epidemiologic or preventive treatment.

**Prophylaxis, pl. prophylaxes** - Prevention of disease or of a process that can lead to disease.

**Prostration** - A marked loss of strength, as in exhaustion.

**Proteinuria** - Presence of urinary protein in concentrations greater than 0.3 g in a 24-hour urine collection or in concentrations greater than 1 g/l in a random urine collection on two or more occasions at least 6 hours apart; specimens must be clean, voided midstream, or obtained by catheterization.

**Proximal** - Nearest; closer to any point of reference: opposed to distal.

**Pruritus** - Syn: itching.

**Ptosis, pl. ptoses** - In reference to the eyes, drooping of the eyelids.

**Pulmonary edema** - Edema of the lungs.

**Purpura** - A small hemorrhage (up to 1 cm in diameter) in the skin, mucous membrane, or serosal surface. (See hemorrhage)

**Pyogenic** - Producing pus.

**Pyrogenic** - Causing fever.

**Rales** - An abnormal respiratory sound.

**RBC** - Abbreviation for Red blood cell.

**Retinitis** - Inflammation of the retina.

**Retrosternal** - Posterior to the sternum.

**Rhinorrhea** - A discharge from the nasal mucous membrane.

**RIA** - Abbreviation for Radioimmunoassay test.

**RIBA** - Abbreviation for Recombinant Immunoblot Assay test.

**Rigors** - 1) Chills 2) Rigidity

**RNA** - Abbreviation for Ribonucleic Acid.

**RPR** - Abbreviation for Rapid Plasma Reagin test.

**R.R.** - Abbreviation for Relative Risk. RR is the ratio of the risk of disease among the exposed to the risk among the unexposed.

$$\begin{aligned} & \text{A divided by (A + B) X 100 = X} \\ & \text{C divided by (C + D) X 100 = Y} \\ & \text{X divided by Y = R.R. (See 2 X 2 Table).} \end{aligned}$$

**Sarin** - A nerve poison that is a very potent irreversible cholinesterase inhibitor and a more toxic nerve gas than tabun or soman.

**Scarification** - The making of a number of superficial incisions in the skin. It is the technique used to administer tularemia and smallpox vaccines.

**Sclera** - the tough white outer coat of the eyeball.

**Sensitivity** - The sensitivity of a test refers to its ability to be reactive in patients who have the disease.

**Sepsis** - The presence in the blood or other tissues of pathogenic organisms or their toxins.

**Septicemia** - A disease condition in which the infectious agent has spread throughout the lymphatic and blood systems causing a general body infection.

**Septic shock** - 1) Shock associated with sepsis, usually associated with abdominal and pelvic infection complicating trauma or operations; 2) Shock associated with septicemia caused by Gram-negative bacteria.

**Sequela, pl. sequelae** - A condition following as a consequence of a disease.

**Serofast** - The failure of a reagin to disappear despite adequate treatment.

**Serogroup** - A grouping of bacteria containing a common antigen (similar to serotyping; organisms are subgrouped into "groups" rather than "types" based upon common antigens). An example of serogroups is found with meningococcal disease serogroups A, B, C, D, X, Y, Z, W-135, 29-E, H, I, K, and L have been identified.

**Serologic test** - Laboratory tests made on serum.

**Serosal** - Pertaining to any serous membrane.

**Serotype** - To distinguish organisms on the basis of their constituent antigen(s). An example of serotyping would be *Salmonella Typhi*, *Typhi* being the serotype. In that there are over 2000 known serotypes of *Salmonella*, knowing the specific serotype may help investigators identify the source, and assist with identifying associated cases.

**Serous** - Pertaining to or resembling serum.

**Serum** - The clear liquid that separates from the blood when it is allowed to clot and which is used in most serologic tests.

**SGOT (GOT)** - Abbreviation for Serum glutamic-oxaloacetic transaminase (GOT - glutamic-oxaloacetic transaminase), a liver enzyme. Called also AST, (See AST).

**SGPT (GPT)** - Abbreviation for Serum glutamic-pyruvic transaminase (GPT - Glutamic-pyruvic transaminase), a liver enzyme. Called also ALT, (See ALT).

**SLE** - Abbreviation for St. Louis Encephalitis virus, also the abbreviation for Systemic Lupus Erythematosus (syn. Lupus).

**Soman** - An extremely potent cholinesterase inhibitor, similar to sarin and tabun.

**Somnolence** - Refers to sleepiness; also unnatural drowsiness.

**Specificity** - The specificity of a test refers to its ability not to react in the absence of the disease.

**STEC** - Abbreviation for Shiga toxin-producing E. coli. (See HUS).

**Sterile abscess** - An abscess whose contents are not caused by pyogenic bacteria.

**Stridor** - A high-pitched, noisy respiration, like the blowing of the wind; a sign of respiratory obstruction, especially in the trachea or larynx.

**STS** - Abbreviation for Serologic test for syphilis.

**Superantigen** - An antigen that interacts with the T cell receptor in a domain outside of the antigen recognition site. This type of interaction induces the activation of larger numbers of T cells compared to antigens that are presented in the antigen recognition site.

**Superinfection** - A new infection in addition to one already present.

**Suppurative** - Refers to producing pus.

**Susceptibility** - Host capability for infection; not immune to infection.

**Symptomatology** - The combined symptoms of a disease.

**Synchronous** - Is to occur at the same time.

**Synovial Fluid** - A transparent fluid contained in joint cavities.

**Systemic** - Affecting the body as a whole.

**Tachycardia** - Rapid beating of the heart, the term is usually applied to a heart rate above 100 per minute.

**Teratogenicity** - The property or capability of producing fetal malformation.

**Thrombocytopenia** - A condition in which there is an abnormally small number of platelets in the circulating blood.

**Titer** - Synonymous with dilutions, a measure of antibody quantity present in the serum.

**Toxic Reaction** - A harmful side effect from a drug that is dose dependent, i.e., becomes more common and severe as the dose of drug is increased. All drugs have toxic effects if given in a sufficiently large dose.

**Toxoid** - A modified bacterial toxin that has been rendered nontoxic (commonly with formaldehyde) but retains the ability to stimulate the formation of antitoxins (antibodies) and thus producing an active immunity. Examples include Botulinum, tetanus, and diphtheria toxoids.

**Tracheitis** - Inflammation of the lining membrane of the trachea.

**Tracheotomy** - The surgical formation of an artificial opening in the trachea.

**Tremor** - Refers to an involuntary trembling or quivering.

***Treponema pallidum*** - A spiral shaped microorganism that is the causative (etiologic) agent of syphilis. Synonym: Spirochete of syphilis.

**TTP** - Abbreviation for Thrombocytopenic Purpura.

**UA** - Abbreviation for urinalysis.

**Umbilicated** - A pit or depression resembling the umbilicus (navel).

**Urethra** - The tube conveying urine from the bladder to the exterior of the body.

**Urticaria** - An eruption of itching wheals, usually of systemic origin; it may be due to a state of hypersensitivity to foods or drugs, foci of infection, physical agents (heat, cold, light, friction), or psychic stimuli.

**Uterus** - The womb, a pear-shaped muscular organ that holds the fetus during pregnancy.

**Vaccine** - A suspension of attenuated live or killed microorganisms (bacteria, viruses, or rickettsiae), or fractions thereof, administered to induce immunity and thereby prevent infectious disease.

**Vaccinia** - An infection, primarily local and limited to the site of inoculation, induced in man by inoculation with the vaccinia (cowpox) virus in order to confer resistance to smallpox (variola). On about the third day after vaccination, papules form at the site of inoculation which become transformed into umbilicated vesicles and later pustules; they then dry up, and the scab falls off on about the 21st day, leaving a pitted scar; in some cases there are more or less marked constitutional disturbances.

**Vagina** - The canal that leads from the external female genitalia to the cervix.

**Varicella** - An acute contagious disease, usually occurring in children, caused by the varicella-zoster virus, a member of the family *Herpesviridae*, and marked by a sparse eruption of papules, which become vesicles and then pustules, like that of smallpox although less severe and varying in stages, usually with mild constitutional symptoms; incubation period is about 14 to 17 days. Syn: chickenpox

**Variola** - Syn: smallpox.

**Variolation** - The historical practice of inducing immunity against smallpox by “scratching” the skin with the purulency from smallpox skin pustules. The first inoculation for smallpox is said to have been done in China about 1022 BC

**VDRL** - Abbreviation for Venereal Disease Research Laboratory. A nontreponemal antibody test for syphilis.

**Vector** - An arthropod that carries disease organisms from man or animals to a susceptible person or animal.

**VEE** - Abbreviation for Venezuelan Equine Encephalitis Virus.

**Vehicle** - An object or substance that serves as a source of disease organisms for a susceptible person.

**Vesicle** - A small blister on the skin.

**Viremia** - The presence of virus in the bloodstream.

**Virion** - The complete virus particle that is structurally intact and infectious.

**Virulence** - The ability on the part of an infectious agent to induce, incite, or produce pathogenic changes in the host.

**VRSA** - Abbreviation for Vancomycin Resistant Staphylococcus Aureus.

**Vulva** - The external parts of the female genital organs, including the labia majora, labia minora, mons veneris, clitoris, perineum and vestibulum vaginal.

**Wayson Stain** - A polar staining method that can be used to identify plague.

**WBC** - Abbreviation for White Blood Cell (count).

**Western Blot** - A test used to detect antibodies in blood samples. Believed to be more specific than the Elisa, so often used to verify Elisa results.

**Wheals** - a smooth slightly elevated area on the body surface, which is redder or paler than surrounding skin; is often attended with severe itchy.

**Widal Test** - A test for the presence of agglutinins to O and H antigens to *Salmonella typhi* and *Salmonella paratyphi* in the serum of patients with suspected salmonellosis.

**WNV** - Abbreviation for West Nile Virus.

**Zoonosis** - An infection or infestation shared in nature by humans and other animals that are the normal or usual host; a disease of humans acquired from an animal source.

**2 X 2 Table** - Is a tool used to evaluate the association between exposure and disease.

		Disease Status		Total
		YES	NO	
Exposure Status	YES	A	B	A + B
	NO	C	D	C + D
		A + C	B + D	N

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